

**Frederick County Roads Board Meeting Minutes  
For Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

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Present were Road Board Members: Barbara Wyatt, Jim Bonneville, Steve Haller

Also present were County staff: Robert Shen, P.E., Deputy Director, Mike Ramsburg, Acting Department Head, Department of Highway Operations, Tracy Diggs, Acting Chief of Office of Transportation Engineering, David Olney, Traffic and Permitting Supervisor Department of Transportation Engineering

*(Official minutes of the Roads Board meetings are kept on file in the Department of Engineering and Construction Management. To view agendas, approved meeting minutes and video recorded Roads Board meetings, visit the County's website at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/roadsboard](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/roadsboard))*

**I. CALL TO ORDER (Chairperson)**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Introduction of Roads Board Members and county staff members were completed by Ms. Wyatt and Mr. Shen.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A. Michael Ginsburg- Lives in Woodsboro on Whiskey Spring Road. Currently preserved as a gravel road. Gravel is only on about a third of the road. He has had 2 flat tires as a result of the road and also had a rock break his window. Wants to discuss the purpose of it being a gravel road after all these years and see about getting it changed to a paved road.
  - i. Barbara Wyatt asked staff to confirm if this was a designated rural road, which staff confirmed it is. Ms. Wyatt explained to Mr. Ginsburg that this was why it is maintained as a gravel road and his request for paving probably wouldn't be turned around. Ms. Wyatt stated that perhaps Mr. Ginsburg was asking for better maintenance of the roadway. Mr. Ginsburg stated that the maintenance has been terrific. His concern is the portion between Etzler Road and Renner Road and why that little portion cannot be paved.
  - ii. Mr. Haller spoke on the history of the Rural Roads program and the process to petition out of the program, which is in limbo due to the Rustic Roads Program.
  - iii. Ms. Wyatt stated that there will probably be no more gravel roads created but those we have we appreciate. Mr. Ginsburg asked how to get notifications on the status.
  - iv. Mr. Shen stated that the Rustic Roads would have to go before County Council and it would more than likely be publicized for updates and comments. Mr. Haller asked who was steering the committee that Mr. Ginsburg could reach out to. Mr. Shen stated that Division of Planning and Permitting would be the contact.
- B. Russell Rice: Buck Lantz Road: Regarding road maintenance, during the last snow event, last week of March possibly, salt was dumped on a stone road, this turned to mush for about 2 days then it dried out. After that it was a dust storm for weeks until the road was graded, then it went back to a dust storm, then it was regraded and rolled. It then rained for a few days back-to-back. After that, the road had calcium dropped on it then it rained again, and it all washed down the ditch. That was a waste. They should wait a few weeks past this time frame in the future to put the calcium down, maybe June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **~APPROVED~**

- i. Ms. Wyatt asked for staff comment. Mr. Ramsburg stated that IF salt was applied to the roadway that shouldn't have happened. Staff is instructed not to do that, and he will look into that. As far as the calcium goes, that has to be scheduled about a month in advance, so every year is different. You can't wait too long because then there is no moisture available to help it stick together. Mr. Rice stated that he understands the weather cannot be predicted but even if it was possible to wait 2 weeks, it would seem to be more beneficial.
  - ii. Mr. Bonneville stated that we are short 7 inches of rain this year and that will continue to climb, and we had no real snow events so everything is dry and dusty. It is unfortunate but doesn't think we will be beating the dust anytime soon with these conditions.
- C. Susan Hanson: Was called up but decided not to speak.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of minutes of March 6, 2023

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. None at this time

### **V. CIP and OTHER PROJECT UPDATES: (Presented by Mr. Diggs)**

- A. Stevens Road Bridge- Currently under construction. The bridge deck has been completely removed and they are waiting for the fabrication to finish up.
- B. ADA Sidewalk and Ramps- Ongoing improvements. Finished one section of roads lists and are now moving on to another section.
- C. Monrovia East West Connector- Currently at 100% design. Finalizing Easements and contracts with the utility companies.
- D. Christopher's Crossing- Notice of Proceed was issued 6/5/2023.
- E. Boyers Mill Road South, Phase 1- Prepare Bid documents and finalizing legalities with developers in the area.
- F. White Rock Subdivision Improvements- Bid opening is 6/14/2023. Looking at 2 or 3 months out for active construction.
- G. Pavement Management Program- 4 programs are currently active. FY21 Overlay is finishing up. FY22 Overlay Notice to Proceed is 6/7/2023. FY22-23 Chip Seal is active. FY23-FY24 Surface Coat pre-con is in mid-June.

Mr. Bonneville asked about what is being done at White Rock Subdivision.

Mr. Diggs stated that it was drainage improvements along with water and sewer work. There is joint action between the county roads program and water and sewer so it took a little longer to get bid documents together because all parties had to agree on the improvements happening in the subdivision.

Ms. Wyatt asked about the ADA Sidewalk and Ramps and how the County priorities were to start.

## **~APPROVED~**

Mr. Olney spoke and stated it was about a 10 year process to look at all the sidewalks in the County and prioritized sidewalks that were in a high traffic areas, areas that were mixed use. We started in those areas and have been working back through neighborhoods and try to do it all at one time if possible. Some larger neighborhoods have taken over a year to complete. Areas focused on now tend to be older neighborhoods that do not have commercial areas or school paths.

### **VI. ROADS BOARD ISSUES-** None at this time

Susan Hanson was asked to come up at this time. She stated that if the Rustic Roads Program is transferred to Planning, there is still an importance that the Roads Board functions if not more as an oversight and advise for DPW. The DPW budget is the second largest in the County and you need to be able to analyze, prioritize and recommend what needs to be done by DPW in terms of the public and its roads.

Ms. Hanson shared comments on gravel roads. In 2002 the Rural Roads Program was enacted to preserve the rural heritage of our roads. The process for adding or removing a road from the program was horrendous and we need to make changes in that. To compare, Montgomery County has 10 roads with 9 miles of gravel, while Frederick County has roughly 45 miles of gravel. Ms. Hanson, she stated that she hopes more timely and appropriate maintenance on those roads can happen, but it will not be DPW or you (Roads Board) that is going to have that say, but it should be providing the best quality experience to everyone in rural Frederick County.

Mr. Haller asked about status of the exploratory committee. Ms. Wyatt stated that the group has not had a meeting since the fall. But all should stay tuned. There is a great interest in Planning and DPW and the wheels are turning but it will just take a little bit of time. Ms. Wyatt asked if Mr. Shen wished to add anything.

Mr. Shen stated it is his understanding that there will be a process for the Rustic Roads program and the public should be able to participate in and voice comments. Ms. Wyatt agreed.

Hr. Haller asked who was driving the bus to creating the legislation or driving that forward. Ms. Wyatt stated that eventually it will be in the hands of the CE who will then work with Planning and the County Attorney and ultimately will be brought for discussion in a format presumably that represents an Ordinance to Council and the public for discussion.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:38 p.m. The next meeting will be held, September 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Winchester Room, 2nd Floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick